

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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R 041556Z MAR 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 052920

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, EAIR, SF, US

SUBJECT: SAFAIR REQUEST TO FLY TO RHODESIA

REF: PRETORIA 849 (NOTAL)

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. REFTEL INDICATES SAFAIR IS SEEKING EXCEPTION TO
CONDITIONS OF LICENSE UNDER WHICH THEY BOUGHT L-100'S
TO ALLOW THEM TO TRANSPORT THIRTY THOUSAND RHODESIAN
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MINE WORKERS FROM RHODESIA TO SOUTH AFRICA. REQUEST

POST ATTEMPT VERIFY NUMBERS OF WORKERS TO BE TRANSPORTED BY SAFAIR IN CONTRACT WITH WITSWATERSRAND NATIVE LABOR ASSOCIATION (WNLA). SAFAIR CONTRACT PROPOSAL CALLS FOR RETURNING ONE HUNDRED FORTY THOUSAND TO MALAWI, BRINGING THIRTY THOUSAND FROM BOTSWANA, TEN THOUSAND FROM ANGOLA, THIRTY THOUSAND FROM RHODESIA, AND THIRTY THOUSAND FROM TRANSKEI AND CISCHE. PENDING CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS OVER MINE LABOR WITH MOZAMBIQUE, CONTRACT MAY ALSO INCLUDE RETURN OF UP TO ONE HUNDRED FORTY THOUSAND TO MOZAMBIQUE. THESE FIGURES SEEM TO BE EXCESSIVE FOR FOUR PLANES SAFAIR PLANS TO USE FOR CONTRACT.

2. WHILE NUMBER OF FLIGHTS NECESSARY TO TRANSPORT THIRTY THOUSAND RHODESIAN WORKERS COULD FIGURATIVELY BE CONSIDERED A ONE-TIME EXCEPTION, DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE POST VIEWS ON SAFAIR REQUEST.

3. DOES SAFAIR CONTROL IMPLY THAT SOUTH AFRICAN MINES NOW INTEND TO TRANSPORT BULK OF MINE LABOR FORCE TO AND FROM MINES BY AIR? IF SO, CAN EMBASSY PROVIDE INSIGHT INTO RATIONALE BEHIND SUCH A DECISION. KISSINGER

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